

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of the Claims will replace all prior listings and versions of the Claims in the application.

Listing of the Claims

Claim 1 (original): A method for managing healthcare data which allows a healthcare user to assemble a virtual healthcare clinic, the method comprising the acts of:

- a) providing a central data base system capable of holding health records, wherein said data base is accessible through at least one public connection;
 - b) enrolling a plurality of healthcare practitioners to create a plurality of enrolled healthcare practitioners, wherein enrolling a healthcare practitioner comprises providing the healthcare practitioner with software operable on a computer system for reading information from medical portable access devices and writing treatment information including medical prescriptions, to said medical portable access devices;
 - c) enrolling a plurality of pharmacies to create a plurality of enrolled pharmacies, wherein enrolling a pharmacy comprises providing the pharmacy with software operable on a computer system for reading healthcare information including medical prescriptions written by one of the plurality of enrolled healthcare practitioners from said medical portable access devices, for writing a confirmation that a prescription has been filled to said medical portable access devices, and transmitting an electronic message to the one of said plurality of enrolled healthcare practitioners who wrote the prescription;
 - d) enrolling a patient member;
 - e) providing said patient member with a medical portable access device;
 - f) programming said medical portable access device provided to said member with healthcare information relevant to said patient member;
 - g) synchronizing the healthcare information on said medical portable access device with the healthcare information contained in said central data base;
- and

- h) repeating acts (d), (e), (f) and (g) for a plurality of patient members creating a plurality of enrolled patient members each having a medical portable access device, whereby by an enrolled patient member can create a virtual clinic of healthcare providers by choosing enrolled healthcare practitioners and enrolled pharmacies and presenting the portable access device provided to the member for updating at healthcare treatments and prescription fulfillment.

Claim 2 (original): The method of claim 1 further comprising the act of providing a plurality of patient members with software operable on a computer system for reading the contents of their medical portable access device, and writing updated information on the medical portable access device.

Claim 3 (original): The method of claim 2 wherein each medical personal access device is a smart card.

Claim 4 (original): The method of claim 3 further comprising providing enrolled healthcare practitioners, enrolled pharmacies, and enrolled patient members with software functionality for optional connection to the central database system during use of a portable access device, and wherein the central database is synchronized with the portable access device approximately contemporaneously with writing to the personal access device if the central database is optionally connected.

Claim 5 (original): The method of claim 4 further comprising providing software functionality to enrolled pharmacies which causes an enrolled pharmacy to send an electronic confirmation to a healthcare provider and to send an electronic confirmation to the central data base when the enrolled pharmacy fulfills a prescription prescribed by the health provider.

Claim 6 (original): The method of claim 5 further comprising providing software enrolled healthcare practitioners, enrolled pharmacies, and enrolled patient members with software functionality for authenticating the identity of users.

Claims 7-18 (cancelled)

Claim 19 (original): A healthcare information system comprising:

- a) a central data base system comprising a central data base containing healthcare information pertaining to a plurality of patients, said central data base system accessible by at least one external connection;
- b) a plurality of medical portable access devices, wherein each of said plurality of patients has at least one medical portable access device;
- c) a plurality of healthcare practitioner computer systems, each healthcare practitioner computer system comprising a device for reading and writing to any of said plurality of medical portable access devices, an external communication connection, and software operating said healthcare practitioner computer system, comprising functionality for reading healthcare information pertaining to a patient from said medical portable access devices, writing a record of treatment to said medical portable access devices, writing a prescription to any of said plurality of medical portable access devices, and sending at least one electronic message when a prescription is written to a portable access device; and
- d) a plurality of pharmacy computer systems, each pharmacy computer system comprising a device for reading and writing to any of said plurality of medical portable access devices, an external communication connection, and software operating said pharmacy computer system, comprising functionality for reading healthcare information pertaining to a patient from said medical portable access devices, reading a prescription from said medical portable access devices, writing a confirmation that a prescription has been filled and decrementing a refills counter pertaining to a filled prescription to said portable access devices, and sending at least one electronic message when a prescription is fulfilled.

Claim 20 (original): The healthcare information system of claim 19 further comprising a plurality of patient computer systems, each patient computer system comprising a

device for reading and writing to any of said plurality of medical portable access devices, an external communication connection, and software operating said patient computer system, comprising functionality for reading healthcare information pertaining to a patient from said portable access devices, and writing updated health history information to said portable access devices.

Claim 21 (original): The healthcare information system of claim 20 wherein said healthcare provider computer systems, said pharmacy computer systems and said patient computer systems further comprise software functionality for optional connection to said central database system, obtaining information from said central database system, and synchronizing a portable access device to the central database system when the portable access device is accessed.

Claim 22 (original): The healthcare information system of claim 21 wherein said healthcare provider computer systems, said pharmacy computer systems, and said patient computer systems further comprise a biometric measurement device for authenticating users.

Claim 23 (original): The healthcare information system of claim 21 wherein the database system further comprises software functionality for synchronizing information between a portable access device and the central database when a portable access device is accessed by a computer system which is connected to the central database.

Claim 24 (original): The healthcare information of claim 22 wherein said healthcare provider computer systems, said pharmacy computer systems, and said patient computer systems further comprise software functionality for authenticating a user using said biometric measurement device.